

S. RES. 272

Whereas the University of Kansas was founded in 1865 as the State university for the State of Kansas, embodying the values and ideals of the people who fought and died to ensure that Kansas would enter the Union as a free State, as symbolized by the mascot of the university, the Jayhawk;

Whereas, 150 years after its founding, the University of Kansas is home to 28,000 students and 2,800 faculty;

Whereas the university graduates more than 6,700 individuals each year who join the ranks of the 338,240 Jayhawk alumni living throughout Kansas, the United States, and the world;

Whereas the University of Kansas has been a member of the prestigious Association of American Universities since 1909;

Whereas the University of Kansas has been open to all genders and races since its founding;

Whereas the first valedictorian of the university was Flora Richardson in 1873;

Whereas the University of Kansas has 13 schools, offers more than 600 degree programs, and has students come from all 50 States and 105 countries to study at the university;

Whereas the University of Kansas recognizes that the understanding of world cultures is essential for the progress of the United States;

Whereas the university offers more than 40 separate language courses;

Whereas continuing education programs at the University of Kansas include fire and law enforcement training centers that annually train over 5,000 public safety officers across Kansas;

Whereas basketball was first played at the University of Kansas in 1898, coached by James Naismith, the inventor of the game, and the university has one of the most successful programs in the country, winning 5 national championships and more than 2,150 games;

Whereas Allen Fieldhouse has hosted the University of Kansas basketball games since 1955 and the building remains one of the most historically significant and prestigious buildings in college athletics;

Whereas President Theodore Roosevelt pronounced the chant of the university, Rock Chalk Jayhawk, the "greatest college cheer ever devised";

Whereas the University of Kansas has a long history of working with the United States Armed Forces, is one of only 53 schools to host all 3 Reserve Officers' Training Corps programs, and works with the United States Army Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth to produce military and civilian faculty with the advanced degrees necessary to teach at the highest level;

Whereas, in 1917, the first United States officer killed in World War I combat was a University of Kansas Medical Center student;

Whereas research at the University of Kansas provides numerous economic and societal contributions;

Whereas helium was first isolated in Bailey Hall, located on the main campus of the University of Kansas, and the first time-release capsule was developed by a university professor;

Whereas the Spencer Museum of Art houses an internationally known and diverse collection with approximately 38,000 artworks and artifacts in all media;

Whereas the Kenneth Spencer Research Library is home to some of the rarest and most precious volumes and materials in the world, including cuneiform tablets written 4 millennia ago;

Whereas astronauts, artists, authors, business leaders, Pulitzer Prize winners, a Nobel

laureate, and Governors and Senators have launched careers at the University of Kansas, including former Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole; and

Whereas the Robert J. Dole Institute of Politics offers opportunities for all citizens to discover how to best serve their communities: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes that the diverse elements of the University of Kansas are united by the mission to educate leaders, build healthy communities, and make discoveries that benefit and improve society; and

(2) congratulates the University of Kansas for 150 years of outstanding service to the State of Kansas, the United States, and the world.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 2704. Mr. BLUMENTHAL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1493, to provide for an increase, effective December 1, 2015, in the rates of compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities and the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation for the survivors of certain disabled veterans, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2705. Mr. MCCONNELL (for Mr. ISAKSON) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 2617, to amend the Fair Minimum Wage Act of 2007 to reduce a scheduled increase in the minimum wage applicable to American Samoa.

SA 2706. Mr. MCCONNELL (for Mr. ISAKSON) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 2617, *supra*.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 2704. Mr. BLUMENTHAL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1493, to provide for an increase, effective December 1, 2015, in the rates of compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities and the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation for the survivors of certain disabled veterans, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 3, strikes lines 8 through 14 and insert the following:

(C) RATE OF INCREASE.—Each dollar amount described in subsection (b) shall be increased by 0.9 percent.

SA 2705. Mr. MCCONNELL (for Mr. ISAKSON) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 2617, to amend the Fair Minimum Wage Act of 2007 to reduce a scheduled increase in the minimum wage applicable to American Samoa; as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. MINIMUM WAGE FOR AMERICAN SAMOA.

(a) MINIMUM WAGE.—Paragraph (2) of section 8103(b) of the Fair Minimum Wage Act of 2007 (29 U.S.C. 206 note) is amended to read as follows:

“(2) the minimum wage applicable to American Samoa under section 6(a)(1) of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 (29 U.S.C. 206(a)(1)) shall be—

“(A) the applicable wage rate in effect for each industry and classification as of September 29, 2015; and

“(B) increased by \$0.40 an hour (or such lesser amount as may be necessary to equal the minimum wage under section 6(a)(1) of such Act), beginning on September 30, 2015, and on September 30 of every third year thereafter, until the minimum wage applicable to American Samoa under this paragraph is equal to the minimum wage set forth in such section.”.

(b) GAO REPORTS.—Section 8104 of the Fair Minimum Wage Act of 2007 (29 U.S.C. 206 note) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) by striking “September 1, 2011” and inserting “April 1, 2017”; and

(B) by striking the second sentence and inserting the following: “The Government Accountability Office shall submit a subsequent report not later than April 1, 2020.”;

(2) in subsection (b), by striking “the study under subsection (a)” and inserting “any report under subsection (a)”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(c) REPORT ON ALTERNATIVE METHODS OF INCREASING THE MINIMUM WAGE IN AMERICAN SAMOA.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of ‘An Act to amend the Fair Minimum Wage Act of 2007 to reduce a scheduled increase in the minimum wage applicable to American Samoa’, the Government Accountability Office shall transmit to Congress a report on alternative ways of increasing the minimum wage in American Samoa to keep pace with the cost of living in American Samoa and to eventually equal the minimum wage set forth in section 6(a)(1) of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 (29 U.S.C. 206(a)(1)).”.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This Act, and the amendments made by this Act, shall take effect as of September 29, 2015.

SA 2706. Mr. MCCONNELL (for Mr. ISAKSON) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 2617, to amend the Fair Minimum Wage Act of 2007 to reduce a scheduled increase in the minimum wage applicable to American Samoa; as follows:

Amend the title so as to read: “An Act to amend the Fair Minimum Wage Act of 2007 to reduce a scheduled increase in the minimum wage applicable to American Samoa.”.

NOTICE OF INTENT TO OBJECT TO PROCEEDING

I, Senator CHARLES E. GRASSLEY, intend to object to proceeding to the nomination of Brian James Egan, to be Legal Advisor of the Department of State, dated September 30, 2015.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on September 30, 2015, at 2 p.m., to conduct a hearing entitled “The Economic Crisis on Ukraine.”

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions be authorized to meet

during the session of the Senate on September 30, 2015, at 10 a.m., in room SD-430 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND
GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on September 30, 2015, at 9:30 a.m., to conduct a hearing entitled "A Review of the Department of Education and Student Achievement."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on September 30, 2015, at 10 a.m., in room SD-224 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled "Nominations."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Veterans' Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on September 30, 2015, at 2:30 p.m., in room SR-418 of the Russell Senate Office Building.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Select Committee on Intelligence be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on September 30, 2015, at 2:30 p.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON FEDERAL SPENDING
OVERSIGHT AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Federal Spending Oversight and Emergency Management of the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on September 30, 2015, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing entitled, "Prudent Planning or Wasteful Binge? A Look at End of the Year Spending."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON FISHERIES, WILDLIFE, AND
WATER

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife, and Water of the Committee on Environment and Public Works be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on September 30, 2015, at 10 a.m., in room SD-406 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled, "Oversight of the Army Corps of Engineers' Participation in the Development of the New Regulatory Definition of 'Waters of the United States.'"

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs Subcommittee on Securities, Insurance, and Investment be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on September 30, 2015, to conduct a hearing entitled "Oversight of the Securities Investor Protection Corporation."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Special Committee on Aging be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on September 30, 2015, at 2:30 p.m. in room SD-562 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building to conduct a hearing entitled "Pension Advances: Legitimate Loans or Shady Schemes."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

UNITED STATES COMMISSION ON
INTERNATIONAL RELIGIOUS
FREEDOM REAUTHORIZATION
ACT OF 2015

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 238, S. 2078.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2078) to reauthorize the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read a third time and passed and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (S. 2078) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 2078

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "United States Commission on International Religious Freedom Reauthorization Act of 2015".

SEC. 2. SENSE OF CONGRESS.

It is the sense of the Congress that the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom—

(1) was created by Congress to independently assess and to accurately and unflinchingly describe threats to religious freedom around the world; and

(2) in carrying out its prescribed duties, should use its authorized powers to ensure that efforts by the United States to advance religious freedom abroad are timely, appropriate to the circumstances, prudent, and effective.

appropriate to the circumstances, prudent, and effective.

SEC. 3. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY.

Section 209 of the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6436) is amended by striking "September 30, 2015" and inserting "September 30, 2019".

SEC. 4. STRATEGIC PLAN.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—The term "appropriate congressional committees" means—

(A) the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate;

(B) the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives;

(C) the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate; and

(D) the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

(2) COMMISSION.—The term "Commission" means the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom established under section 201 of the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6431).

(3) COMMISSIONER.—The term "Commissioner" means a member of the Commission.

(4) VICE CHAIR.—The term "Vice Chair" means the Vice Chair of the Commission who was appointed to such position by an elected official from the political party that is different from the political party of the elected official who appointed the Chair of the Commission.

(b) STRATEGIC POLICY AND ORGANIZATIONAL REVIEW PLANNING PROCESS.—Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and not less frequently than biennially thereafter, the Chair and Vice Chair of the Commission, in coordination with the Commissioners, the Ambassador-at-Large for International Religious Freedom, Commission staff, and others jointly selected by the Chair and Vice Chair, shall carry out a strategic policy and organizational review planning process that includes—

(1) a review of the duties set forth in section 202 of the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6432) and the powers set forth in section 203 of such Act (22 U.S.C. 6432a);

(2) the preparation of a written description of prioritized actions that the Commission is required to complete to fulfill the strategic plan required under subsection (d);

(3) a review of the scope, content, and timing of the Commission's annual report and any required changes; and

(4) a review of the personnel policies set forth in section 204 of the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6432b) and any required changes to such policies.

(c) UNANIMOUS AGREEMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—To the greatest extent possible, the Chair, Vice Chair, and all of the Commissioners shall ensure that this section is implemented in a manner that results in unanimous agreement among the Commissioners with regard to—

(A) the strategic policy and organizational review planning process required under subsection (b); and

(B) the strategic plan required under subsection (d).

(2) ALTERNATIVE APPROVAL PROCESS.—If unanimous agreement under paragraph (1) is not possible, items for inclusion in the strategic plan may, at the joint discretion of the Chair and Vice Chair, be approved by an affirmative vote of—

(A) a majority of Commissioners appointed by an elected official from the political party of the President; and

(B) a majority of Commissioners appointed by an elected official from the political party that is not the party of the President.